

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1917.

COULD YOU SUPPORT 12 PERSONS ON \$27 A WEEK?

That's the Problem This Government Clerk and His Wife Are Up Against in War Times

THE STORY OF
A WEEK IN
THE HOME OF
A U. S. CLERK

How much do you spend per day per person in your family for the actual necessities of life?

There is a Government clerk in Washington who has only 30 cents per day per member for the maintenance of his family. He has never gone in debt.

The employee in question has a wife and ten children—a little above the average is, but this is offset by the fact that three sons contribute their earnings—\$7 the week—to the father's salary of \$20 the week. The Government pays him. The total income allows of an expenditure of a little less than 30 cents per day for each member of the family.

The average annual wage paid to a Government clerk in Washington is \$34, which is less than that of the employee in question.

Investigated by The Times.

The Washington Times has made a thorough investigation to determine just how they make ends meet. Going to the home of the 30-dollar-a-week Government clerk, a Times reporter lived one week. The reporter came away with a mass of information, the reading of which is illuminating.

From the very start of the investigation, the reporter was struck with the important part the wife of the average Government clerk plays in directing the destinies of these miniature "war machines," these Government employees' homes.

During the past week the family diary—the wife said she always kept it—showed total expenditures of \$31.25 against an income of \$27, which means a deficit of \$4.25. The increased outlay was due to the fact that during the previous week the family had denied itself a number of articles, leaving a small balance.

The detailed statement below does not include clothing for the father, mother, and ten children. The cold weather of the past few weeks has made almost necessary runners, heavy shoes, and warm clothing. No school books or supplies, no theater tickets, no expenditures for little pleasures of any kind are mentioned.

Would Mean a Cut.

Asked how the problem of clothing the children, buying their school books and new furniture and kitchen accessories would be solved, the mother told The Times reporter that it meant she would have to cut down the already limited food supply.

The reporter walked into the kitchen, the only warm room in the house, where the children were studying their lessons for the morning. When an effort was made to get a statement from the children as to their poor food and raiment, one of them spoke up:

"Well, it is awful bad, and not what some children have; but, oh, it's so much better than all those little war children have to suffer." This sentiment seemed to be that of the remaining members of the group.

Here is the program for seven days as The Times reporter found it:

Five o'clock. The mother and older children got ready for the early services of the church. The father remained in bed, dressing, they had no hot water with which to bathe as they could not afford to keep the furnace up all night. They had no tooth paste. A half case of soap and two rather shabby towels were hanging on the rack. They have four towels in the family stock, to be used by ten people.

Six o'clock. They went to church.

Six o'clock. Breakfast. Each child had one saucer dish of cornflakes, one cup of coffee, and not more than three slices of bread. The father, being the support of the family, was given a cup of coffee, and as much corn flakes and bread as he wanted. Likewise the mother and two elder brothers.

Nine o'clock. The mother and father read the Sunday papers while the children made the beds and tidied the rooms in general, and washed the breakfast dishes. Frequently, the mother has had to work on Sunday owing to the pressure brought on by war work.

Had Needle Sews.

Dinner was prepared by the mother. Last Sunday noodle soup and bread and butter made the meal. The children were given one or two soup plates full, half the size of the ordinary soup plate, and three slices of bread and butter.

The mother, father, and two big brothers took one or two bowls of soup and as much bread and butter as they wanted.

Until 4 o'clock the parents read the Sunday paper and some magazines. The children played about the house, as it was too cold to be outdoors, clothed in coats such as they wear. They each have shabby overalls bought last year. They are made of thin material. They have no mittens, and were shoes bought when school opened. This pair is the only one each possesses, and they are expected to last the winter, according to their mother.

Six o'clock. Dinner was prepared by the mother, who had been reading and napping the whole afternoon. Coffee, bread, and butter made the meal. Each child was allowed three slices of bread and butter—nothing more. The mother and father, and big brothers

Here Is the Expense Account
of the Family

This weekly expense account shows that this clerk's salary is not sufficient to cover his expenditure for one week—even with the aid of his three sons, who contribute to the family support. Either they must go in debt to obtain their wants or forego some of them.

\$27.00 weekly income; \$31.25 weekly expense.

The shortage is \$4.25. The following weekly account shows how this money is expended:

3 1/2 pounds sausage	\$.50	Payment on house	7.50
3 1/2 pounds steak	.85	Church	1.50
8 pounds sugar	.48	Car tickets	.00
2 cans tomatoes	.39	1 cake Ivory soap	.00
2 cans corn	.12	2 cakes laundry soap	.12
2 cans peas	.22	Bluing and starch	.03
3 pounds coffee	.66	Tobacco (for father)	.25
1 1/2 pecks potatoes	.80	2 cans sardines	.30
1 1/2 pounds butter	.50	Noodles	.25
12 boxes corn flakes	.75	1 can syrup	.15
21 pints milk (for cereal)	1.55	Half pig's head	.45
42 loaves bread	3.25	2 boxes codfish	.20
Wood	.70	1 can something not identified	.15
Coal	2.25	8 pounds lard	.90
Laundry	1.00	1 chicken (used in noodle soup)	1.15
Electric light (\$5.40 per mo.)	.85	2 packages buckwheat	.12
Insurance	1.74		

The meal consisted of coffee, corn flakes, and break and butter.

Go to Bed.

The five small children, ranging from two, four, ten, twelve, and fourteen, went to bed. The two sons, sixteen and eighteen, went to the moving pictures, this being their only luxury during the week. The mother and father read or talked until bedtime.

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In the kitchen and read newspapers and magazines until their bed time. One son went to a night school where he is pursuing a business course.

10 till 10:30 or 11 P. M.—Bedtime preparations.

1 A. M.—The father got home from work. His working hours alternate between day and night shifts. Last week he was on night duty.

TUESDAY.

6:30 A. M.—The family arose and as usual they had no hot water with which to bathe. The children did not seem to mind dressing in unheated rooms. "We are used to it," said the mother.

7 to 8:30 A. M.—Breakfast. The children had to tip-toe down stairs, because they did not want to disturb their father, sleeping in the dining room. For breakfast there had corn flakes, bread and butter, and a cup of coffee.

8:30 A. M.—The children left for school.

8:30 to 11:00 A. M.—This was the time set for the morning housework, but that morning it was neglected because it was market day. One of the little boys, sent home from school because the furnace, out of order, failed to heat a section of the building, cared for the baby while his mother "did the marketing." She returned at 12 o'clock with her basket filled with three pounds of steak, three and one-half pounds of smoked sausage, a hoghead.

"I cannot afford to deal at the grocery stores," said the mother.

12 P. M.—She prepared dinner for their father, who had been chopping wood in the cellar since 11:30. The other children came home from school and ate the lunch which their brother, ten years old, had prepared for them while their mother got dinner for their father.

They had bread and jelly. The bread was placed in thick slices on a large dish. The table covered with oilcloth was set with knives only. There were dishes sufficient for the family use in the rickety safe in the kitchen, but they were rarely used except at dinner time.

Lead No Forks.

9 A. M.—The mother washed the dishes as soon as the children left for school. A few sauce dishes, spoons, and knives and no forks composed the washing.

10:15 A. M.—By this time the mother had completed the housework. Airing the already cold house was a large part of that work, but it was necessary. She moved as quietly as possible, for her husband who had returned from work at 12 a. m. was asleep in his cot in the dining room.

11 A. M.—The father appeared. The wife started the preparation of dinner for him. The children took lunch at this time and dinner at the usual evening hour.

12 P. M.—Lunch was ready for the children returning from school. They had bread and jelly. Despite the bitter cold weather they had nothing hot.

"I can't afford to give them coffee three times a day," said their mother.

1 P. M.—The children had returned to school and their mother, after washing the dishes, only a few knives, spent the remainder of the afternoon in sewing, mostly knitting a sweater.

2 P. M.—The father went to work.

3:15 to 3:30 P. M.—The children came home from school for the day. The boys played out on a lot adjoining their house. The girls played with the baby toys.

4 P. M.—The children went to bed.

5 P. M.—Dinner was ready, being prepared by the little girl fourteen years old. Vegetable hash constituted the meal with coffee and bread. No child was given more than three slices of bread. The older brothers returned from work.

6 P. M.—The children studied their lessons in the kitchen, the only heated room in the house.

7 P. M.—The children went to bed. The mother and three older sons sat in the kitchen and read.

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1 P. M.—The children returned to school and left the mother to do the housework that remained as a result of her usual Tuesday "marketing."

2 P. M.—The mother, after completing her work, spent the rest of the evening in rest.

3 P. M.—The children returned from school, and played about the streets with the other children in the neighborhood.

6 P. M.—The older sons who work for a trivial salary, not having had the advantages of a high school education, returned from their day's labor. Dinner was ready. They had steak, potatoes, bread and coffee. The children were given a piece of meat about as large as the palm of a woman's hand.

"We usually have meat about once a week," the mother explained.

7 P. M.—The children went to bed, and their mother and brothers remained up to read and talk, about the kitchen table.

10:30 P. M.—The family went to bed.

1 A. M.—The father of the family returned from work.

WEDNESDAY.

6:30 A. M.—"My, I wish I had a pair of bedroom slippers to put on now. My feet get so cold when I go down stairs to put some coal on the furnace," said the mother, as she arose to start the furnace for the day. My son, I think is going to give me a kimono for a Christmas present. I hope he will, for I haven't had one since I was married twenty-five years ago."

7 to 8:30 A. M.—"Hurray! Buckwheat cakes for breakfast," shouted the little son.

"Well, you see, I think the children need a change now and then. They get tired of cornflakes, coffee, and bread every morning," added the mother.

12 P. M.—Lunch time. "Ose whis, Bread and jelly for lunch again," pouted the little boy. "The same old thing every day. Bread and butter or bread and jelly every single day."

"Aw, go on. You ought to be glad to get it." scolded his sister. "The children in the war don't even get that."

"But we had this same old stuff before the war, smartly," answered the little boy.

5 P. M.—Dinner time. Sausage, sausage, and potatoes. "That's a good dinner," said the visitor. "Yes," replied the mother, "the children had to go without handkerchiefs, and gloves to get it." It's mighty hard to make both ends meet."

THURSDAY.

6:30 A. M.—"Wash day," said the mother, as she opened her eyes upon another day of drudgery. "I will have to gather the clothes together the first thing this morning. I expect the wash woman early."

"If my husband gets an increase I will buy the children some clothes. These rags will soon be falling off them."

12 P. M.—Lunch time.

"Ain't you got anything hot?" howled the same little boy, as he came shivering into the kitchen for his lunch.

"Just bread and jelly! Well, that's not so bad, when you ain't got nothing else," he concluded.

5 P. M.—Dinner. Leftover sausage, butter knife, no salt and pepper shakers, no napkins, and only an oil cloth. In the kitchen where it was warm.

FRIDAY.

6:30 A. M.—"Show," shouted one little girl, whereupon all the middles flew to the window in their nightgowns.

"Oh, doesn't that look like Christmas?" said one little mite.

"Oh, gee, I wish I had a sled," the little boy whined. "I haven't had one since two Christmases ago."

"Well, I want a sled, because my hands freeze nearly off when I ride. A sled's got no salt, and it ain't no fun riding when your hands are freezing," said his little sister.

"Oh, just ask Santa Claus to bring you some gloves this time, and I'll ask for a sled," he offered.

"That's right. I'll ask for gloves and a nice pair of shoes, and a warm coat so I won't get cold."

"And I want a sled. I won't ask for too much. Papa said if you do you'll be sorry, because sometimes Santa Claus is poor. He said he doesn't bring poor children much, anyway."

"I want a Teddy bear and a doll," said the next to the smallest one. My papa said that if Uncle Sam is good to him Santa Claus will be extra good, too."

S. A. M.—"And what would you like?"

The last day for voluntary enlistments of men within the draft age marked a veritable flood of recruits for the regular army. Indications are that about 25,000 enlistments will be credited to the army for yesterday. This will mean that the enlisted strength of the regulars will stand at about 270,000.

It is utterly impossible to get definite figures for later than Thursday. No tremendous was the flood of recruits on Friday that many had to be turned away, and the Secretary of War yesterday modified the regulations so that all men who applied before noon yesterday may be considered to have enlisted before the voluntary limit expired.

Adjutant General McCain states that the department is bending every effort to take care of the great surplus of recruits that swamped Fort Slocum and the village of New Rochelle Friday night. The men will be moved from Fort Slocum as fast as possible. In the meantime those who have been accepted will be cared for in emergency quarters in the town. The department is not informed of a similar congestion at any of the other recruit depots.

The last daily total of recruits, for Thursday, shows 14,881, the largest number of recruits in the nation's history. So far \$104 have been reported as enlisting on Friday. All the States but the following have now more than filled their quotas: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and Washington.

Managers of the campaign are con-

Some of the High Lights
in Family's Life

The mother has never been to the moving pictures. "I could not spend money for the moving pictures when the children had no clothes to put on their backs," she said.

The children have not had a glass of milk to drink since they were one year old, except the milk given on their cereal and in their coffee. One of the children is two years old and another one is four.

The family has not had eggs for a year.

They have not bought a piece of furniture for twenty-five years, when they were first married. The floors have been bare for the past twelve years.

They have meat twice a week.

Ten cents a week is given to the church.

Two of the children, ten and fourteen years old, have never been to the moving pictures.

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HEARING ON
CLERKS' PAY
WILL BE HELD
TOMORROW

The first opportunity for advocates of the Keating bill for a general emergency increase in the salaries of all Government employees to be heard will be given at 10:30 tomorrow morning before the House subcommittee on appropriations, having in charge the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill, in the room of the Appropriations Committee, Capitol building.

Chairman Joseph W. Byrnes of Tennessee, of this subcommittee, has granted a hearing at that time to the members of the executive council of the National Federation of Federal Employees. The council is composed of H. M. McLaren, president of the federation; W. E. Junker, of Brooklyn, N. Y.; Luther C. Stewart, of Kansas City, Mo.; W. J. Burke, of Boston; E. J. Newmyer and Miss Florence Etheridge, both of this city; W. P. Griffith, of El Paso, Tex.; Martin J. Gorman, of Montreal, and R. E. Penbody, organizer.

Executive Council Meets.

A meeting of the Executive Council was held last night at the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor, at which the Keating bill was discussed, and arrangements made to appear before the Byrnes subcommittee tomorrow with data and arguments on which they will base their request for the enactment of the Keating bill into law.

No arrangements have yet been made by Chairman Byrnes to hear others than the executive council on the Keating bill on Monday, but a date for further hearings will be announced at that time. The date was set by Mr. Byrnes as an accommodation to the council as most of the members live out of town and cannot remain here longer than Monday night.

The hearing before the Byrnes subcommittee in no way affects the hearing before the Postoffice subcommittee which meets at the same hour Monday morning in the postoffice and post roads committee room. This hearing will be devoted to salary increases affecting postal employees only, while the hearing on the Keating bill embraces all employees of the Federal and District governments.

Keating Not to Be Heard.

Congressman Keating of Colorado, who fathers the bill that bears his name, will not be heard tomorrow by the Byrnes subcommittee, but will arrange, with Chairman Byrnes, for further hearings on other days at which representatives of the employees in the various departments will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The settlement of the question of the general emergency increase for all departments is definitely in the hands of Chairman Byrnes' subcommittee, unless present plans miscarry.

Mr. Byrnes told The Times that he had granted Mr. Keating's request that the executive council of the Federal employees be heard tomorrow as they could not remain longer than that day, and he wanted to give them every consideration. He said that further arrangements for additional hearings would be made at this hearing.

There is a bare possibility that the District appropriation bill will reach the House before the legislative, executive, and judicial bill, but this will in no way affect the handling of the question by the Byrnes subcommittee, as Chairman Sloan of the District subcommittee, which has before it Commissioner Brownlow's recommendation for the base pay increase for District employees, has no desire to deal with the general emergency increases contemplated. Mr. Sloan believes this general increase should be considered by one subcommittee, and that the logical committee is that presided over by Mr. Byrnes.

Representatives of the postal employees will appear before the House Postoffice subcommittee in force tomorrow and present their case. Advocates of the several bills now before the committee will be heard, as well as those advocating a standardized increase for all postal employees alike.

Although Postmaster General Burleson is known to be opposed to a general increase in the pay of postal employees as a proposition, he has written Chairman Bell of Georgia, of the Postoffice subcommittee, that representatives of all the employees in the department will be given an opportunity to appear before the committee. Mr. Burleson has offered to place at the committee's disposal all the information in the department bearing on the salary question. Mr. Bell told The Times.